EPILOGUE

As this survey reaches its close, a final word seems needed to ensure that there shall be no misunderstanding as to the object or the conclusion. The names of a large number of Jews have been adduced, whose contribution to European culture, and to human civilisation as a whole, has been of considerable importance. Yet it is not desired to exaggerate the share that these persons of Jewish birth have had in the evolution of the modern world. Of the great names of human history, the Jews have not produced a remarkable proportion, save in the religious sphere with Moses and Isaiah, Jesus and Paul. In modern times, there have been no towering figures, standing head and shoulders above their generation, excepting perhaps Spinoza in the seventeenth century, Disraeli in the nineteenth, Einstein in the twentieth (I leave out of account, of course, those whose essential work was performed within the bounds of their own religious community). The proportion may be respect-able ; it is not abnormally large.

But it is not by the giants alone that civilisation can be assessed. Great advances in human progress are the work, not of a single genius, but of scores of less-known pioneers, from whose work, experiences, and failures the genius profits. Civilisation is a complex affair. There is constant action and reaction. The more

startling
results would be in most cases impossible without the
painstaking research of scores of humble, unrecorded
workers of a previous generation. The battles may be
won by the general; they are fought by the private